

REMARKS

Summary

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected. Specifically, claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,387,787 issued to Mancini et al. ("Mancini").

In response, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended and claim 5 has been cancelled.

Thus, claims 1 and 3, 4, and 6-11 are pending.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended, and claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the scope of the claim and to incorporate features contained in now-cancelled claim 5, with the amendment finding support in the specification at least in Figures 1A-1C with reference to page 6, lines 3-9. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Thus, no new matter has been entered.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Mancini)

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mancini. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include, among other things, a light transparent base, a light blocking distal end, and a light transparent neck component formed between the light blocking distal end and the light transparent base, the light transparent neck component being narrower than the light transparent base and wider than the light blocking distal end.

In contrast, Mancini fails to disclose, at a minimum, a substrate imprint tool including a light transparent neck component that is narrower than a transparent base and wider than a light blocking distal end. Mancini discloses a lithographic template having a substrate **12**, an etch stop layer **16**, and a patterning layer **20**. See Mancini, Fig. 7 with reference to 6:4-9. Mancini's etch stop layer **16** may be transparent or opaque. See Mancini, 4:18-20. Even if one were to assume for the sake of argument that Mancini's substrate **12** is a light transparent base, etch stop layer **16** is a light transparent neck component, and patterning layer **20** is a light transparent distal end, one could not also say that Mancini's etch stop layer **16** is narrower than substrate **12** and wider than patterning layer **20**. Rather, Mancini discloses that etch stop layer **16** is formed simply to "assist subsequent patterning of the remaining layers" including, for example, patterning layer **20**. See Mancini, Fig. 7; 4:40-41. If etch stop layer **16** is transparent, then Mancini discloses that it is coextensive with substrate **12**. *Id.* On the other hand, if etch stop layer **16** is opaque, then etch stop layer **16** would not be light transparent, and further, "removal of exposed portions **25** of etch stop layer **16** would need to be conducted to allow for the subsequent passage therethrough of radiation." See Mancini, 5:59-62. In the latter case, the remaining portion of etch stop layer **16** then would necessarily be coextensive with patterning layer **20** portions. Thus, in either scenario, it is impossible for Mancini's etch stop layer **16** to simultaneously be light transparent, narrower than substrate **12**, and wider than patterning layer **20**.

Therefore, as Mancini fails to teach every limitation of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Mancini.

Claims 3-11 depend from claim 1 or an intervening claim, thereby incorporating the limitations set forth therein. Thus, for at least the same reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-11 also are allowable over Mancini.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3, 4, and 6-11 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

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/Angela M. Sagalewicz/
Angela M. Sagalewicz
Reg. No. 56,113

Pacwest Center, Suite 1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: 503-222-9981